



News from the Shelby County Mayor's Office

Mark H. Luttrell, Jr., Mayor

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Shelby County's Christmas Tree Recycling Program Yields Benefits

Shelby County's annual Christmas tree recycling program has saved money that would have normally been spent by the county at area landfills. The recycling program also reduced operational expenses to clean up illegal dumpsites.

"Having a central place for discarded live Christmas decorations saved the Public Works Division more than \$1200 dollars in landfill fees. The recycling program also led to fewer trips by county road crews to pick-up discarded trees that would have normally been dumped on roadsides or at illegal dumpsites," said Tom Needham, Director of Shelby County Public Works.

The recycling program was in effect from December 22, 2012 through January 11, 2013. Citizens dropped-off trees, wreaths and other greenery at the Agricenter in the Showplace Arena parking lot on Germantown Road. More than 47.5 tons of debris was collected during the recycling effort.

"We're happy citizens took advantage of this free service. Any cost-savings in this very challenging budget year is important for Shelby County Government. The recycling program not only saves money but has long-term benefits that will improve our environment," said Shelby County Mayor Mark H. Luttrell, Jr.

The trees and greenery have been turned into mulch and will be available to citizens this spring and fall during *Earth Day* events. Dates and times for the mulch giveaways have not yet been set.

The recycling initiative is funded by a litter removal grant from the State of Tennessee Department of Transportation. This was the 14th year for the tree recycling program. It's part of Shelby County's "Sustainable Shelby" initiative, which focuses on ways to conserve energy and protect natural resources.

For more information, contact Lisa Williams with the Shelby County Public Works Environmental Program at **(901) 222-7770**.

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